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ABSTRACT

At the reported meeting, the Group was informed of the increasing interest from Eastern and Central Europe in the work of the Council of Europe. There was a report of the study visit to EUDISED (European Documentation and Information System for Education) agencies in Vienna and The Hague by representatives from the national agencies of Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, and Yugoslavia. The Group agreed on revised selection criteria for inclusion in the EUDISED database and called for a rationalization of the input procedure. Participants expressed cautious optimism with regard to achieving the aims of the Three Year Plan; by the end of 1991 the target figure of 2,500 entries should have been received. (Author/DB)

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Strasbourg, 12 November 1991

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COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL CO-OPERATION

EUDISED Data Network Group meeting

Strasbourg, 2-3 October 1991

REPORT

Abstract

The Group was informed of the increasing interest from Eastern and Central Europe in the work of the Council of Europe. There was a report of the study visit to EUDISED agencies in Vienna and The Hague by representatives from the national agencies of Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia. The Group agreed on revised selection criteria for EUDISED and called for a rationalisation of the input procedure. Participants expressed cautious optimism with regard to achieving the aims of the Three Year Plan; by the end of 1991 the target figure of 2,500 entries should have been received.

EUDISED descriptors

data bank; educational information; EUDISED; planning; progress report; Council of Europe

EUDISED
European Documentation and Information System for Education

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1. OPENING OF THE MEETING, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The meeting was opened by Seamus Hegarty who welcomed the participants (see Appendix I), particularly those attending for the first time. The Draft Agenda (see Appendix II) was adopted with the addition, after item 14, of the proposal for a European Arts Database submitted by Dr Dimitrje Bužarovski of the University of Skopje (see DECS/Doc (91) 5).

2. REPORT OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

2.1 Education Committee meeting, autumn 1991

The main points raised during the Education Committee meeting were covered by Maitland Stobart in his report of the situation with regard to Central and Eastern Europe. (See below para. 3.1.)

2.2 Contracts with national agencies

The Secretariat reported that no national agencies had taken up this idea, which had been proposed at the 1990 meeting of the Data Network Group.

2.3 Co-operation with the European Communities and with CEDEFOP

The Secretariat reported that Michael Adams of CEDEFOP had agreed to mention EUDISED when publicising CEDEFOP and the Secretariat had agreed to do the same for CEDEFOP. Denise Hizette was present as representative of the European EURYDICE Unit. She explained the role of EURYDICE which maintains a database containing 9,000 references to EEC documents and publications. Of these entries, approximately 250 concerned the documents of the Task Force, Human Resources, Education and Training; the remainder were concerned with grey literature, official publications and the Commission's programmes such as TEMPUS, LINGUA, ERASMUS and COMETT. The Task Force maintained its own information service. The European Education Thesaurus was currently managed jointly by the Communities and the Council of Europe.

Armin Gretler expressed the view that co-operation between EUDISED and EURYDICE was desirable and asked about the feasibility study on educational research recently undertaken on behalf of the Commission. Michael Vorbeck reported that the study had been the result of a proposal by the Dutch presidency of the EEC to include an element of educational research in the Community's education programme and said that he had been assured that the Commission did not intend to duplicate the work of EUDISED. Denise Hizette felt that possibilities for co-operation between the Council of Europe and the Commission of the European Communities should be explored and suggested that some EURYDICE data might be included in EUDISED. The chairman urged the Secretariat to keep abreast of developments in the EEC in order to avoid duplication of effort. In response to a question from Spyros Diamessis, Denise Hizette informed the group that the EURYDICE database would not be available online, though some data would be transferred to the national EURYDICE units where off-line searching would be possible.

2.4 The inclusion of CDCC publications in EUDISED

The Secretariat reported that the first ten entries relating to CDCC publications

were being processed by PPL Ltd and should appear in issue 43 of the EUDISED R & D Bulletin. Over 700 abstracts had so far been prepared and they would gradually be fed into EUDISED.

2.5 CIDREE

Seamus Hegarty reported that the second annual conference of the Consortium of Institutes for Development and Research in Education in Europe (CIDREE) would take place in Edinburgh in October 1991. By November 1992 CIDREE should have seventeen full members and a number of associate members who might wish to have closer links with both the Council of Europe and the Commission of the European Communities.

3. CO-OPERATION AND CONTACTS WITH COUNTRIES IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

3.1 Developments at national level

Maitland Stobart reported that during the last twelve months, co-operation between the Council of Europe and Central and Eastern European countries had intensified. Thirty countries had now signed the Cultural Convention - the Soviet Union and Bulgaria being the most recent signatories. Contacts with Albania, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Romania had been established, and it was likely that by next year the Council for Cultural Co-operation (CDCC) would have 35 members. The Council of Europe was frequently asked to provide advice and assistance to Central and Eastern European countries in the process of reconstructing their education systems and staff at the Council were under increasing pressure on account of the extra workload.

Representatives of the Central and Eastern European countries who had taken part in consultations with the CDCC's Education Committee had all stressed the importance of EUDISED. The first study visit for staff from EUDISED agencies in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia had taken place from 23-27 September 1991; similar visits would be planned in 1992.

During the standing Conference of European Ministers of Education in Vienna (16-17 October 1991) the Council of Europe would seek political support for the programme for Central and Eastern Europe which had been approved by the CDCC's Education Committee. A report on the education programme of the Council of Europe had been prepared for this meeting. The Secretariat would send copies to all national agencies. Mr Stobart drew the Group's attention to the CDCC's three current projects in the field of education:

- the European dimension of secondary education
- adult education and social change
- the new modern languages project.

Each of these would last for 3-4 years. There were also three on-going service activities:

- the European Schools' Day Competition

- the Teacher Bursaries Scheme

- educational research workshops, colloquies, symposia and EUDISED.

There was also a new project on the European dimension of higher education, a postgraduate programme focussing on Eastern Europe and work was continuing on equivalence and mobility.

The CDCC would review the Three Year Plan for EUDISED at the end of 1992 or early in 1993.

Contacts with "sister organisations" were also increasing: inter-secretariat meetings with UNESCO and with the Task Force had already taken place. A visit to the Nordic Council had taken place in August and an inter-secretariat meeting with the OECD was planned. As 1992 approached, it was becoming increasingly difficult to respond to the growing number of requests for information about school systems, teaching methods and establishing contacts in Europe. Keeping in touch with the proliferation of non-governmental organisations in Europe was also a problem. The problem posed by the lack of regular information concerning the Council of Europe's activities in the field of education would be addressed next year with the publication of a newsletter of which EUDISED national agencies would receive copies.

The Chairman noted that the Council of Europe was ideally placed to keep in contact with the proliferation of activities and associations in Europe.

3.2 Study visits and technical co-operation

The Secretariat reported on the study visit organised to the national agencies in Vienna and The Hague for representatives from Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia. The participants' reactions had been very enthusiastic. The visit had provided an excellent introduction to the way in which two well-established agencies collect and process information for EUDISED. The participants had also visited the Austrian School Computing Centre, Vienna University Library and the Dutch Ministry of Education. The Secretariat thanked Monique Goemans and Elfriede Tajalli and their colleagues for their help in organising the visit.

Mirjana Pantovic and Anna Čermáková thanked the Secretariat and the Dutch and Austrian national agencies. Monique Goemans commented that she thought the visit had been successful and very informative and said that both SVO and the Dutch Education Ministry would be prepared to help with future visits. Elfriede Tajalli said that she too would be prepared to help with future visits.

Maitland Stobart drew the Group's attention to three other possibilities offered by the Council of Europe to Central and Eastern European countries:

- people working with the Council of Europe in Ministries or Committees could be invited to come to the Council for "familiarisation visits";

- information seminars on the work of the Council for people from the Ministries and key institutions could be organised. Such seminars had already taken place in Bratislava and Warsaw;

- Council of Europe Information Centres could be established in Central

and Eastern European countries.

Requests to take part in any of these activities should be made through the official channels.

The Group recommended that at least one study visit per year should be arranged. Anyone wishing to take part in a study visit, or any national agency prepared to host such a visit should contact the Secretariat.

Monique Goemans suggested that training workshops concentrating on pracical skills such as completing worksheets, online searching and using the thesaurus might also be useful for older EUDISED partners. The Chairman suggested that the user manual to be discussed under item 7 of the Agenda might form the core of such a training programme. This suggestion was welcomed by Maitland Stobart who thanked SVO for their efforts in helping the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

4. DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE 1990 MEETING

Michael Vorbeck noted that the most important developments in the Directorate of Education, Culture and Sport had been covered by Maitland Stobart (see para. 3.1 above). He highlighted the co-operation between the Commission and the Council of Europe which had resulted in the publication of the European Education Thesaurus. The involvement of Central and Eastern European countries in CDCC activities would generate extra work with regard to the educational research workshops organised by the Section for EUDISED and Educational Research and would almost certainly lead to extra input for EUDISED. He raised the question of whether federal states should have one agency which would act as a central clearing house or whether each republic should have its own agency and, in this context, it was recalled that the National Foundation for Educational Research acted as the national agency for Scotland and Northern Ireland as well as for England and Wales.

5. PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE AIMS OF THE THREE YEAR PLAN

5.1 National reports

AUSTRIA: The estimated input for 1991 was 70-80 entries. In fact, 83 entries had been sent in to date. The Austrian national agency had just been equipped with a computer so that data entry and online searching could be carried out within the unit in future.

BELGIUM: The EUDISED agency for the French community had no computer hardware as yet. The Flemish community's agency had sent in 31 entries this year and had prepared five more. In 1992 it would be possible to send details of doctoral theses for inclusion in EUDISED. At the end of 1990 an article on EUDISED had been published in the Department of Education newsletter.

CYPRUS: Twenty more abstracts would be sent in before November 1991.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Only three entries had been sent in so far. The EUDISED agency in Bratislava would try to find ten more entries by the end of 1991. More time was needed before the newly-established agency in Prague could send

entries.

DENMARK: In the past year the Danish agency had concentrated on thesaurus work. In-house computer problems had meant that there had been no entries so far in 1991, but five contributions had now been passed on to SVO. In 1992 it was hoped to send details of 50 research projects to EUDISED.

FINLAND: The Finnish agency had promised 50-60 entries for 1991 but so far, no contributions had been made. The agency was exploring the possibility of preparing their contributions in machine-readable form and hoped to provide 50-60 by the end of 1991.

FRANCE: There had been some problems in the past year as a result of the reorganisation of the two institutes which collect French EUDISED data. However, 132 entries would be sent in by February 1992. Marie-Evelyne Bourgeois expressed her interest in the user manual.

GERMANY: Since 1985 the German national agency had submitted data in machine-readable form. To date, approximately 1,000 entries representing ongoing research had been submitted. The next tape of 195 entries would be ready in November 1991.

GREECE: Despite staffing problems the Greek national agency hoped to fulfil its commitments by the end of the year.

HUNGARY: The national agency had translated the EUDISED leaflet prepared by the Secretariat into Hungarian and had contacted all relevant persons and institutions. In 1991 16 contributions had been made. It was hoped to send 20-25 contributions in 1992.

ITALY: Approximately 120 entries were currently being edited and translated. They would be sent to SVO by the end of the year. The Italian agency had obtained information on all research projects financed by the Ministry of Education and at the beginning of 1991 had sent information concerning EUDISED to all educational periodicals in the country. The main problem encountered by the agency was that all the abstracts needed to be rewritten and translated.

LUXEMBOURG: Changes in his department now meant that Francis Hierzig could contact research workers directly. He had five or six entries which he would send in by the end of October.

NETHERLANDS: Monique Goemans drew attention to the fact that it took six months for an entry to be processed and appear in EUDISED. She asked if it would be possible to reduce this time and so make the database more up to date. The Netherlands had contributed 152 entries in 1991.

NORWAY: The agency previously responsible for EUDISED in Norway had been closed down and this had led to a halt in contributions. A new database for educational research and development was planned; the final decision was expected shortly.

POLAND: Twelve contributions had been sent in during 1991, a further fifteen had been prepared.

PORTUGAL: Sixteen contributions had been provided by Portugal in 1991.

SPAIN: The Spanish agency should be able to fulfil its commitments; the responsibility for EUDISED was now with the Ministry's Documentation Centre.

SWEDEN: The situation in Sweden had been uncertain during the past year but recent reforms should make the collection of data for EUDISED easier. 10-20 contributions were being prepared.

SWITZERLAND: The Swiss national agency had fulfilled its promise to send 70-80 contributions per year and would do so again in 1992.

TURKEY: The Turkish agency had intended to wait for the new edition of the European Education Thesaurus before preparing any contributions in 1991, but in September, 20 entries indexed with the old edition were sent in. Ten more contributions were being prepared. Aytaç Yildizeli said that the instructions for the completion of the worksheet were not sufficiently clear; more examples were needed and an introduction describing EUDISED would be helpful.

UNITED KINGDOM: It had been hoped that the transfer of the whole of the United Kingdom Register of Educational Research would be completed before the meeting, but there had been a number of technical problems. These problems had now been solved and the work should be completed by the end of October 1991. This would add 1,760 entries to the system as well as a further 200 from last year. Approximately 700 entries were envisaged for 1992.

YUGOSLAVIA: 180 research projects were planned for the next five years. Attempts to publicise EUDISED had met with little success. The Institute for Development of Education in the SR of Serbia was to become part of the Ministry of Education and it was hoped that the promised entries would be sent in by the end of 1991.

5.2 Overview

The chairman concluded that there was reason for "cautious optimism" with regard to the Three Year Plan. The difficulties which had been encountered, such as the time lost at the beginning of the three years, the developments in Central and Eastern Europe and the major educational reforms in 10-12 countries, were largely outside the control of the national agencies. The target of 2,500 entries per year was attainable, though it would be necessary to allow extra resources for processing input if the higher number of entries was maintained. The second target of the Three Year Plan was to ensure that the majority of relevant items from each country would be entered into EUDISED in order that users could be confident they would find all important research projects. It was important that this target should also be met.

6. SELECTION CRITERIA - CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT DOCUMENT PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT (See DECS/Doc (91) 6)

6.1 Sources of research

Concern was expressed over the question of including details of doctoral theses in EUDISED (para 3.2 DECS/Doc (91) 6). The consensus was that the inclusion of bibliographic references was contrary to the original spirit of EUDISED. Doctoral theses were acceptable insofar as the entry described the research leading to a doctorate, though this research would obviously result in the

production of a dissertation or thesis. CDCC publications were also acceptable from this point of view to the extent that they were the result of studies or research carried out by individuals or teams of workers on behalf of the Council of Europe. There was some discussion on the equivalence of doctoral and masters' degrees in the various countries and the role of national agencies in selecting good research for EUDISED was stressed.

6.2 Ongoing or completed research

Participants asked when agencies should begin to enter the year in field (1) of the database rather than O (ongoing) or C (completed) as they do at present. Graham Howard said that with the new computer at PPL Ltd, the date of a project's entry into EUDISED would be inserted automatically in field (1) (see para 3.3, DECS/Doc (91) 6).

6.3 Complete information

It was agreed that complete information should be provided whenever possible. (see para. 3.4, DECS/Doc (91) 6). Shorter abstracts would be acceptable in exceptional cases, and then only when the title of the project was sufficiently explicit.

7. USER MANUAL

The draft of the user manual prepared by Gabriela Lopes da Silva and revised by staff at SVO was distributed to the participants. They were asked to send comments and suggestions to Monique Goemans by 30 November 1991. The Group thanked Gabriela Lopes da Silva and Monique Goemans and their colleagues for the work they had done. It was agreed that the Secretariat would arrange for the final version to be translated into French. The manual could be used in future study visits and training workshops and should be up-dated regularly. Gabriela Lopes da Silva said that her draft was aimed at the online user and suggested that there was in fact a need for two manuals. A second, giving details of how to collect and prepare information for inclusion in EUDISED, could be useful for new agencies.

8. REPORT FROM SVO (see Appendix IV for full report)

Kees Broekhof noted that since the last EUDISED meeting in November 1990 there had been 796 entries. This figure included the first entries from the Council of Europe and from the Soviet Union. Only four countries had reached their estimated number of entries for 1991. The first forty entries for issue 44 of the bulletin had already been sent to PPL Ltd and another 70 were ready for editing.

He suggested that the processing of entries could be speeded up if data could be sent to him in machine-readable form. Diskettes already prepared in EUDISED format were offered to those national agencies with suitable hardware. If data could be sent to PPL on diskette it would not have to be re-typed. Unfortunately, PPL Ltd were only able to accept data on magnetic tape. It was pointed out that software did exist to transfer data from floppy disk to magnetic tape and agencies which had information on this software were asked to pass it on to the Secretariat. The standard of worksheets could still be improved and model worksheets were available to use as a guide.

9. REPORT FROM PETER PEREGRINUS LTD

Graham Howard reported that the transfer from the ICL to the VAX computer was now complete and issue 42 of the bulletin would be produced very soon. Issue 43 should be ready by the end of 1991. On account of the transfer there was a backlog of typing to be done, but this should be cleared by the end of the year. A number of participants expressed their concern over the delay and suggested that extra staff might be taken on to deal with this backlog.

PPL Ltd needed to have details of the changes incorporated into the new edition of the European Education Thesaurus. Graham Howard suggested that it could be used from issue 45 onwards (see also para. 14 below).

10. SOURCES OUTSIDE THE NATIONAL AGENCIES

Michael Vorbeck listed a number of possibilities for finding information for EUDISED from sources other than educational research institutes. Non-Governmental Organisations, the Nordic Council, Ministries of Labour and Social affairs, CEDEFOP, the EEC and teachers' associations all carry out educational research. If they contributed to EUDISED it might be possible to increase the number of entries by 10-20%. Lists of participants at educational research workshops organised by the Council of Europe would in future be sent to all national agencies. This would enable the national agencies to contact participants with a view to obtaining details of their research.

The question of projects carried out under the auspices of one of the NGOs but involving research in a number of countries was raised. The participants asked whether such studies should be entered by the parent institution or should each national agency give details of the study carried out in their country. It was decided that the national agencies should consider the question during the coming year and Kees Broekhof could monitor what happened at present. A decision could be taken at next year's meeting. It was felt that some modification of the worksheet might be necessary to allow more than one country to be entered in the country field.

11. DATABASE AND BULLETIN ENTRIES (See Appendix V for full report)

Kees Broekhof summarised the procedure for selecting entries for the database and bulletin which was to be adopted after the 1990 Data Network Group meeting. Since there was only space in the bulletin for 1,000 entries and the estimated number of entries for 1991 was 2,000, the intention was that each country should be allotted space in the bulletin for half the number of entries estimated. Once the country's allocation had been fulfilled, further entries would go directly into the database.

Entries which would in any case go into the database only, were those designated for the database only by the national agency, entries with abstracts of one or two lines and entries relating to research leading to a doctorate or a master's degree. Additional criteria for selecting entries which would go into the database only were the dates of the research project, the degree to which the research was related to educational practice, policy and theory and projects of local rather than national significance.

However, since the estimates made last year remained un fulfilled the question of selection eventually became irrelevant and all entries received by the editor had been included in the bulletin until the target figure of 1,000 was reached.

The idea of "proportional representation" in the bulletin was generally accepted by the Group. There was concern that those users who did not have the possibility of searching the database might not be aware that it contained more material than the bulletin. It was therefore suggested that an index of entries which had been sent to the database only should be included in the bulletin. Graham Howard would check that this was possible and the Secretariat would check with Saur how this would affect the number of pages in the bulletin.

A number of suggestions were made regarding the future of the bulletin. Monique Goemans thought that the number of issues per year should be increased to six if the increase in the number of entries was maintained. Michael Larsen felt that the future lay in CD-ROM rather than in a printed bulletin but a number of participants said that they thought the database was too small to make this a viable proposition unless the EUDISED, EURYDICE and CEDEFOP databases could be offered on one CD-ROM. It was decided the Group would take into account recent developments in technology and see next year whether the increase in the number of entries had been maintained.

12. PUBLICITY - ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

Anne Cosgrove reported that as a result of last year's meeting the Secretariat had prepared a simple leaflet describing EUDISED which had subsequently been translated into a number of languages. Although the leaflet had been useful, it was only a temporary measure and a more attractive, professional-looking leaflet was needed. The Secretariat's more detailed information document on EUDISED (DECS/Doc (87) 2) had also been revised - as DECS/Doc (91) 1 - to take into account the most recent developments with regard to the database and Thesaurus.

EUDISED was mentioned in a number of international yearbooks and directories of online databases, including the list of online databases in education compiled by UNESCO/IBE, copies of which would be sent to participants after the meeting. Two articles on EUDISED had appeared in IBE periodicals (Educational Innovation and Information and the INED Bulletin) and, as a result, a request for more information had been received from Romania. A magazine entitled Soviet Education published by M E Sharpe publishers occasionally included an advertisement for EUDISED. This had recently been updated. The Secretariat had received a request for an article on EUDISED from the editor of the Education Libraries Journal in the United Kingdom. This would be published in early 1992.

As far as potential developments were concerned, the list of subscribers to the bulletin (DECS/Doc (91) 8) might help to identify individuals or institutions which did not currently receive the bulletin. However, it should be borne in mind that there could be a number of reasons why the name of an institute did not appear - the bulletin might be bought via a subscription service for example. A list of database users could also be compiled in order to help national agencies identify institutions which could be sent information on EUDISED.

If any national agency could suggest periodicals which might print articles on EUDISED they were invited to make them known to the Secretariat.

The participants reported on their own publicity efforts. It was suggested that the Council of Europe might take part in the Frankfurt Book Fair or DIDACTA and similar events. However, Michael Vorbeck pointed out that participation in these events was expensive and posed staffing problems. The Newsletter/Faits Nouveaux produced by the Documentation Centre for Education in Europe could also be used to publicise EUDISED. It was agreed that articles written by the Secretariat could be adapted by national agencies for use in their own country and vice versa.

13. TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE DATABASE

The problems raised at the 1990 meeting of the Data Network Group and subsequently taken up with ESA were discussed with reference to DECS/Doc (91) 7.

13.1 Character sets

Since last year there had been further correspondence with ESA on the subject of the characters in Danish and German which do not appear in the database (German ä ö ü and ß, Danish æ å ϕ). ESA had asked for details of the way in which the data was coded on the tapes sent by PPL Ltd and for standard transliterations of these characters. Michael Larsen felt that since the new edition of the European Education Thesaurus contained all the Danish and German characters, the use of transliterations would lead to further problems. He thought that the preface to the Thesaurus should have indicated that transliterations should be used when carrying out an online search. This was thought to be something which could be incorporated in the user manual. Elfriede Tajalli felt that transliterations would be preferable to the spaces which currently appear in the text, but that the long term aim should be to reproduce the German and Danish characters in the database. The Secretariat was asked to follow up this question with ESA.

13.2 Updating the EUDISED database

With regard to replacing entries on the database with more up-to-date entries, Seamus Hegarty said that the preference of the national agency in the United Kingdom would be to replace the first entry so that users would always have the most-up-to date information. The Group decided that it would be better to replace entries rather than simply refer back to them and that information on the cost implications would have to be sought.

13.3 Display format

Since the 1990 meeting, participants had been informed of the possibility of defining their own format for displaying the results of an online search (format 9). However, many considered that defining all the fields to be displayed was unnecessarily time-consuming and thought that a number of other online hosts had adopted a better solution. They allowed users to display the results of a search using a pre-set format minus certain fields. A number of participants asked why the abstract always appeared in upper case since the problem of those characters which did not appear in the database might well be solved if the abstract were in upper and lower case.

Participants were reminded that doctoral theses and CDCC documents should be introduced as research projects and not simply as bibliographic references.

14. EUROPEAN EDUCATION THESAURUS - REPORT ON THE BUREAU MEETING 13 MAY 1991

Michael Larsen reported that the new edition of the European Education Thesaurus had now been published. The members of the Bureau of the Thesaurus Management Group had taken for granted that EUDISED agencies would be informed when the new edition appeared. However, EURYDICE units had already been notified while the EUDISED agencies had heard nothing to date. He thought that in future, more attention should be paid to timing as deadlines had rarely been met and he stressed the importance of continuity and coherence between the European Education Thesaurus and other education thesauri (eg. CEDEFOP). Evaluation and up-dating would continue to be important. (See also DECS/Doc (91) 4.)

Armin Gretler and Elfriede Tajalli both pointed out that the German title of the new edition of the Thesaurus was incorrect and that the alternative title suggested by the German language group had not been adopted. Gabriela Lopes da Silva added that a number of corrections to the Portuguese version had not been incorporated into the final text. The Thesaurus Management Group had feared that some decisions concerning the Thesaurus might be taken out of their hands and this seemed to have happened. Michael Vorbeck said that he had already complained about the fact that the wishes of the German-speaking group had apparently been ignored. He assured participants that their national agencies would be sent copies of the new edition as soon as they were received. It was suggested that M. Roulin's report ("Towards the European Education Meta-Thesaurus") should form the basis of future discussion.

The question of when national agencies should begin to use the new edition of the Thesaurus for indexing EUDISED entries was posed by a number of participants. Kees Broekhof said he would contact all national agencies once he had finished editing entries for issue 44 of the bulletin and ask them to begin to use the new edition of the Thesaurus. It was noted that the new descriptors in the latest edition of the Thesaurus should replace the old ones; the Secretariat was asked to find out from PPL Ltd and ESA how this would be done.

15. PROPOSAL FOR A EUROPEAN ARTS DATABASE (see DECS/Doc (91) 5)

Michael Vorbeck explained how this proposal had been passed on to the Secretariat and how it had led to an exchange of correspondence with Dr Bužarovski. He had been invited to the meeting to explain his idea, but unfortunately had not been able to attend. While the Council of Europe would welcome a research project on arts education, EUDISED had not been conceived as a system which would contain information on music or video; furthermore, the financial investment required to set up such a system would be considerable. The Group decided unanimously that this was not a project in which they could become involved at present, but participants were invited to inform the Secretariat if they knew of similar databases in their own countries which would be of interest to Dr Bužarovski.

16. BUDGET AND PROGRAMME FOR 1992

Michael Vorbeck briefly introduced this item and explained the situation regarding the consultant's fee of 80,000FF for Thesaurus work. It was noted that in future, extra resources for data processing would be necessary.

17. ELECTION OF NEW CHAIRMAN

Philippe Champy was unanimously elected chairman of the Data Network Group for the next two years. He thanked the Group for their support and, on their behalf, thanked Seamus Hegarty, the out-going chairman.

18. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Data Network Group would take place on 21-22 October 1992. It would be preceded by the Thesaurus Management Group meeting on 20 October 1992.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Anne Cosgrove pointed out a mistake on page 10 of DECS/Doc (91) 9 - the title should read "January-June 1991".

Constantinos Papanastasiou thanked the Secretariat for preparing the documentation for the meeting and for ensuring that participants received it two weeks before the meeting.

APPENDIX I/ANNEXE I

AUSTRIA/AUTRICHE

Mrs Elfriede **TAJALLI**, Bundesministerium für Unterricht und Kunst, Abt I/13a, Minoritenplatz 5 - Postfach 65, A-1014 WIEN

Tel: (43) 1 53120-3520 **Fax:** (43) 1 53120 3535

BELGIUM/BELGIQUE

Mr Wilfried **BOOMGAERT**, Ministerie van de Vlaamse Gemeenschap, Departement Onderwijs, Centrum voor Informatie en Documentatie, Koningstraat 150, B-1000 BRUXELLES

Tel: (32) 2 210.53.96 **Fax:** (32) 2 210.54.09

Mme Christine **RUHL**, Ministère de l'Education, de la Recherche et de la Formation, Direction Générale de l'Organisation des Etudes, de l'Enseignement, de Promotion sociale, des Bâtiments scolaires de la Communauté française, 43 rue de la Science, B-1040 BRUXELLES

Tel: (32) 2 238.86.11 **Fax:** (32) 2 238.86.97

CYPRUS/CHYPRE

Mr Constantinos **PAPANASTASIOU**, Pedagogical Institute, P.O. Box 512, CY - NICOSIA

Tel: (357) 2 302736 **Fax:** (357) 2 445021

CZECHOSLOVAKIA/TCHECOSLOVAQUIE

Dr Anna **ČERMÁKOVÁ**, Ústav informácií a prognóz, školstva, mládeže a telovýchovy, Asmolovova 52, ČS-842 44 BRATISLAVA

Tel: (42) 725 166 **Fax:** (42) 726 180

Ms Stanislava **BROŽOVÁ**, Head of Documentation Unit, Ústav pro informace ve vzdělávání (Institute for Informatics in Education), Gorkého nám. 26, ČS-11121 PRAGUE 1

Tel: (42) 2 267 069 **Fax:** (42) 2 267 009

DENMARK/DANEMARK

Mr Michael **SØGAARD LARSEN**, National Library of Education, Lersø Parkallé 101, DK-2100 KØBENHAVN ø

Tel: (45) 31.29.82.11 **Fax:** (45) 31.29.42.06

FINLAND/FINLANDE

Mrs Liisa **HUGHES**, Institute for Educational Research, University of Jyväskylä, PO Box 35, SF-40351 JYVÄSKYLÄ 10

Tel: (358) 41 601 211 **Fax:** (358) 41 603 201

FRANCE

Mme Marie-Evelyne **BOURGEOIS**, INIST, Sciences humaines et sociales, 54 Bd Raspail, F-75270 PARIS CEDEX 06

Tel: (33) 49 54 20 00/49 54 21 95 **Fax:** (33) 45 48 70 15

GERMANY/ALLEMAGNE

Mme Dorothea **LEWERENZ**, Sekretariat der Ständigen Konferenz der Kultusminister der Länder, Nassestrasse 8, D-5300 BONN 1

Tel: (49) 228 50.12.71 **Fax:** (49) 228 50 13 01

GREECE/GRECE

Dr Spyros **DIAMESSIS**, Ministry of Education and Religion, Counsellor, Pedagogical Institute, Mesogeion 396, GR - 153 41 AG PARASKEVI

Tel: (30) 1 656.73.68 **Fax:** (30) 656.73.70

HUNGARY/HONGRIE

Mrs Susan **KOVACS**, Head of the Documentation and Information Department, National Institute of Vocational Education, Berzsenyi/u6, H-1087 BUDAPEST

Tel: (36) 1 1637.685 **Fax:** (36) 1 1140.649

IRELAND/IRLANDE

Apologies/excusé

ITALY/ITALIE

Mme Fiora **IMBERCIADORI**, Biblioteca di Documentazione pedagogica, Via Buonarroti 10, I-501 22 Firenze

Tel: (39) 55 241.187/55 241.188 **Fax:** (39) 55 242.884

LUXEMBOURG

M Francis **HIERZIG**, Ministère de l'Education Nationale, L-2926 Luxembourg

Tel: (352) 468.02.507 **Fax:** (352) 466 815

NETHERLANDS/PAYS BAS

Mr Hans **van der NEUT**, Head of the Library & Documentation Dept, Ministerie van Onderwijs en Wetenschappen, Postbus 25000, NL-2700 LZ ZOETERMEER

Tel: (31) 79 533 594 **Fax:** (31) 79 531 953

Ms Monique **GOEMANS**, Head Documentation Dept, Institute for Educational Research in the Netherlands (SVO), Sweelinckplein 14, NL-2517 GK DEN HAAG

Tel: (31) 70 346 9679 **Fax:** (31) 70 360 9951

NORWAY/NORVEGE

Mr Arne **GUNDERSEN**, Executive Officer, Ministry of Education, Research & Church Affairs, Akersgaten 42, Postboks 2119 Dep, N-0031 OSLO 1

Tel: (47) 2 34 74 94

Dr Vidar **HORSFJORD**, Programme for Research on Education, Gaustadalléen 21, N-0371 Oslo 3

Tel: (47) 2 95 84 12 **Fax:** (47) 2 60 44 27

POLAND/POLOGNE

Dr Elzbieta **DROGOSZ**, c/o Institute for Educational Research, Gorczewska 8, PL-01-0180 WARSZAWA

Tel: (22) 32.18.69/32.02.21 **Fax:** (22) 32.18.95

PORTUGAL

Mme Gabriela **LOPES DA SILVA**, Instituto Nacional de Investigaçao Cientifica, Centro de Documentaçao Cientifica e Técnica, Av Prof Gama Pinto 2, P-1699 LISBOA CODEX

Tel: (351) 11 793 1300 **Fax:** (351) 1 76 56 22

SPAIN/ESPAGNE

Mr Ernesto **CALBET ROSELLO**, Chef du Service de Documentation et Bibliothèque du C.I.D.E. du Ministère de l'Education et de la Science, Ciudad Universitaria, Alcalá, 34-2a planta, E-28071 MADRID

Tel: (34) 532 13 16 **Fax:** (34) 522 56 63

SWEDEN/SUEDE

Dr Tomas **LIDMAN**, Director, Statens Psykologisk-Pedagogiska Bibliotek, Box 50063, S-104 05 STOCKHOLM
Tel: (46) 8 15.55.81 **Fax:** (46) 8 15.82.56

SWITZERLAND/SUISSE

Armin **GRETLER**, Schweizerische Koordinationsstelle für Bildungsforschung, Entfelderstrasse 61, CH-5000 AARAU

Tel: (41) 064 21.21.80 **Fax:** (41) 064 22.94.72

TURKEY/TURQUIE

Mme Aytaç **YILDIZELI**, The Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey, TÜBITAK/TÜRDOK, Atatürk Bulvari 221, Kavaklidere, TR-06100-ANKARA

Tel: (90) 4 168 5300/2026 **Fax:** (90) 4 126 04 89 **Telex:** 43186 BTAK TR

UNITED KINGDOM/ROYAUME-UNI

Dr Seamus **HEGARTY**, National Foundation for Educational Research in England and Wales, The Mere, Upton Park, GB-SLOUGH SL1 2DQ

Tel: (44) 753 574 123 **Fax:** (44) 753 691 632

Mr G D **LAWRENCE**, Room 15/3, Department of Education and Science, Elizabeth House, York Road, GB - LONDON SE1 7PH

Tel: (44) 71 934 0768

YUGOSLAVIA/YOUGOSLAVIE

Mrs Mirjana **PANTOVIC**, Institute for Development of Education in the SR of Serbia, Kneza Milosa 101/III - Post fah 45-29, YU-11124 BEOGRAD

Tel: (38) 11 767 255

Mrs Jelka **ARH**, Board of Education and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia, Poljanska cesta 28, YU-61000 LJUBLJANA

Tel: (38) 61 319 066 **Fax:** (38) 61 310 267

EXPERTS/CONSULTANTS

Mr Kees **BROEKHOF**, Editor, SVO EUDISED Unit, Sweelinckplein 14, NL-2517 GK DEN HAAG

Tel: (31) 70 346 9679 **Fax:** (31) 70 360 9951

Mr Graham **HOWARD**, Peter Peregrinus Ltd (PPL), Michael Faraday House, Six Hills Way, GB-STEVENAGE SG1 2AY

Tel: (44) 438 313311 **Fax:** (44) 438 742840

Mr Philippe **CHAMPY**, Institut National de Recherche Pédagogique, Département "Ressources et communication", Service Banques de données, 29 rue d'Ulm, F-75230 PARIS CEDEX 05

Tel: (33) 1.46.34.91.57 **Fax:** (33) 43 54 32 01

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OBSERVERS/OBSERVATEURS

Représentante d'EURYDICE

Mme Denise **HIZETTE**, L'Unité Européenne d'EURYDICE, Rue Archimède 17 (Bte 17), B-1040 BRUXELLES

Tel: (32) 2 230.03.82/230.03.98 **Fax:** (32) 2 230.65.62

UNESCO IBE/BIE

Mrs Felicity **NACEREDDINE**, Documentalist, UNESCO/IBE, Case Postale 199, CH-1211 GENEVE 20

Tel: (41) 22 798 14 55 **Fax:** (41) 22 798 14 86 **Telex:** 415771 BIE

International Labour Organisation/Bureau International du Travail

Mrs Nadejda **EBEL**, Training Policies Branch, International Labour Office, CH - GENEVA 22

Tel: (41) 22 799 69 73

SECRETARIAT

Michael VORBECK
Anne COSGROVE

APPENDIX II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting. Adoption of the Agenda.

2. Report of the last meeting and matters arising:

   2.1 Education Committee meeting, autumn 1991

   2.2 Contracts with national agencies

   2.3 Co-operation with the European Communities and CEDEFOP

   2.4 The inclusion of CDCC publications in EUDISED

3. Co-operation and contacts with countries in central and Eastern Europe

   3.1 Developments at national level (M. Stobart)

   3.2 Study visits and technical co-operation (A. Cosgrove)

4. Developments since the 1990 meeting (M. Vorbeck)

5. Progress towards achieving the aims of the Three Year Plan

   5.1 National reports (national delegates) (See DECS/Doc (91) 9)

   5.2 Overview

6. Selection criteria - to consider draft document prepared by the Secretariat (See DECS/Doc (91) 6)

7. Users' manual - to consider the draft manual prepared by G. Lopes da Silva and M. Goemans

8. Report from SVO (K. Broekhof) (See DECS/Doc (91) 9)

9. Report from Peter Peregrinus Ltd. (G. Howard) (See DECS/Doc (91) 9)

10. Sources outside the national agencies (M. Vorbeck)

11. Database and bulletin entries - to consider a report prepared by K. Broekhof

12. Publicity - to discuss actual and potential developments (A. Cosgrove)

13. Technical aspects of the database (A. Cosgrove) (See DECS/Doc (91) 7)

14. European Education Thesaurus - report of (See DECS/Doc (91) 4)

the Bureau meeting 13 May 1991 (M. Larsen)

15. Budget and Programme for 1992 (M. Vorbeck) (See DECS/Doc (91) 9)

16. Election of new chairperson

17. Date of the next meeting

18. Any other business

APPENDIX III

EUDISED INPUT since 1990 Data Network Group meeting

	estimates 1990	input 1990	input 1991
Austria	85	102	83
Belgium	40	33	31
CDCC			10
Cyprus	20	29	
Czechoslovakia	40	17	8
Denmark	25		
Finland	40	31	
France	200	202	88
FR Germany	200	168	181
Greece	20	24	5
Hungary	30	8	16
Iceland			
Ireland	10		
Italy	80	41	28
Luxembourg	5	3	
Netherlands	250	81	152
Norway	35	15	10
Poland	15	12	15
Portugal	18	12	16
Spain	40	10	2
Sweden	50	9	9
Switzerland	75	77	75
Turkey	38		20
United Kingdom	650	37	36
USSR			2
Yugoslavia	23	3	2
approx.	2,000	914	789

Figures provided by Kees Broekhof

APPENDIX IV

SVO report by Kees Broekhof (Item 8 of the Agenda)

Statistics

- The total figure for 1990 was not 902 but 914 (Poland should have been on the list but had been forgotten);

- for this EUDISED year the total number of entries is 796; this EUDISED year has not been a full year however: if entries had continued to come in at the same rate for another six weeks the total figure would have been about 900;

- this year for the first time entries were received from the CDCC and the USSR; Poland has continued to contribute for the second year and has made true its promise to supply 15 entries in 1991;

- at this moment the first 40 entries for issue 44 of the R & D Bulletin have been forwarded to PPL; another 70 entries which were submitted the week before the meeting are waiting to be edited; these entries are included in the input figures for this year.

Magnetic tape

If next year's input reaches the target level of 2,000 or more, entries will have to be processed at a much higher rate. It seems advisable therefore to make a start now with further rationalizing the way in which entries are processed. At present national agencies can supply their data on magnetic tape and on paper worksheets. Of these, the most convenient medium by far is the magnetic tape. The magnetic tape makes it possible to pass over an entire step in the data entry process, which makes it not only the quickest, but also the cheapest medium.

Floppy disks

However, not all countries are able to supply their data on magnetic tape. As an alternative, an experiment has been conducted this year with floppy disks. The data were supplied on diskette, the necessary modifications were made with the personal computer and a printout of the diskette was sent to PPL. The results of this experiment were quite promising. It is true that the data entry people at PPL still have to retype the material to get it onto computer tape, but they will be working from worksheets that have no written corrections, which means that the material can be processed much more quickly. There is only one restriction in the use of floppy disks: only ASCII format is allowed.

Paper worksheets

Of course there will be countries that are unable to supply their data either on magnetic tape or on floppy disk. These countries will keep using the paper worksheet. Here, too, a greater degree of standardization is desirable. Experiences during the past year have shown that the quality of the input can still be improved; in some cases there were even surprising differences between entries sent by the same country. Usage of a completed model worksheet will make it easy to prepare a "perfect" worksheet.

APPENDIX V

Database and Bulletin entries (Kees Broekhof)
(Item 11 of the Agenda)

Background

The agreements established during the meeting of last year resulted in the definition of two types of EUDISED entries:
those that were to go both into the Bulletin and into the database and those that were to go just into the database.

It was envisaged that the total input for the coming year would increase to such an extent that there would be no place in the Bulletin for all the entries submitted. I promised to devise a set of criteria which would maximally guarantee an equal distribution of entries from different countries in the four issues of the Bulletin that were planned.

Approach

The fairest approach to this problem seemed to be a so-called quantitative approach: the amount of space in the Bulletin to which a country was entitled would depend on the estimated amount of input for that country. The total estimate given for 1991 was about 2,000 entries. Four Bulletins contain about half that number. It seemed fair therefore to allocate each country space in the Bulletin for half the number of entries indicated by its estimated input.

Selection

How were the entries that were to go just into the database to be selected? Last year's meeting resulted in the definition of three categories of "database only" entries:

- entries selected for the database by the national agency itself;
- entries with short abstracts, i.e. abstracts consisting of no more than one or two lines;
- doctoral theses and master's theses.

It was intended to apply these criteria until a country had reached its "quotum" for the Bulletin. From there on, every additional entry from that country would go into the database.

Additional criteria

In some cases additional criteria were applied. In the case of France, a number of projects were referred to the database because of their age. Some dated back to the early 1980s, some even to the 1970s. The German material was supplied in one big pile. As a result, it was not necessary to fill the space in the Bulletin first. Instead, a selection could be made straight away, first according to the criteria mentioned above and, following that, on the basis of relevance. The degree to which a project was related to educational practice, policy or theory was chosen as the decisive factor. For instance, a project dealing with the problems of bilingual pupils would be given priority to one dealing with drugs addiction or the driving behaviour of adolescents. It also happened that projects had a comparable field of interest, only one approached the problem on a national scale,

while the other was limited to just one city. Here too, the choice was obvious. Many more examples could be given, but these will hopefully serve to illustrate that the selection was made with the utmost care.

Conclusion

The set of criteria which was applied had only one weakness: it was based on the assumption that all countries would supply the amount of material expressed by the estimates given last year. As it turned out, the input was so disappointing that the issue of selection gradually became irrelevant. In fact, all of the material supplied could have gone into the Bulletin and there would even be space left. When this picture became clearer as the year progressed, the idea of a quotum for each country in the Bulletin was abandoned. However, by that time a substantial amount of material had already been referred to the database. In consequence, some countries that have supplied a relatively large amount of material now find a part of that material unpublished in the Bulletin, whereas countries that supplied much less material in proportion to their estimate have been "rewarded" in the sense that all their contributions have gone into the Bulletin.

Recommendation

Given the uncertainty with regard to the number of entries to be expected from each country, it is perhaps best to opt for the most practical approach to the selection of entries for the Bulletin and the database. This would mean that all of the material goes into the Bulletin in the order in which it comes in. As soon as the figure of 1,000 is reached, the remainder goes into the database. This, it may be hoped, will encourage countries to send their data early and in good quantities. A minimum amount of space of, say, ten projects might be guaranteed for each country to provide for those countries that prefer to send their data late in the year. As regards the data from the UK and the CDCC, these will most likely be provided in two big piles, which will make it fairly easy to distribute these or part of these among the four issues of the Bulletin envisaged for the coming EUDISED year.